

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 SY-05 A-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5354

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJECT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY VANCE VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 059659, (B) STATE 058746, (C) MOSCOW 3053,

(D) MOSCOW 3768

1. PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR, PRESS ATTACHE AND ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICERS CALLED ON MFA/PRESS SECTION FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF LEV KRYLOV, COUNSELOR ANATOLIY STRELNIKOV (IN CHARGE OF VISITING PRESS), AND NICOLAY PETROVSKIY (SECURITY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS) AT MFA MARCH 21. ATMOSPHERE GENERALLY FRIENDLY, CONSIDERABLY MORE COOPERATIVE THAN LAST YEAR'S MEETING, AND IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO MEETING WITH INTOURIST LATER SAME DAY (SEPTEL D).

2. EMBASSY PROVIDED MFA/PRESS SECTION ALL NAMES LISTED REFTELS PLUS MARK HOPKINS (VOA MUNICH), EMIL SVEILIS (UPI LENINGRAD), BARTON REPPERT (AP MOSCOW) AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF US NEWS AGENCIES. PRESS ACCREDITATION REQUESTED FOR ALL. SOVIETS INFORMED EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION THAT THIS ACTION SUFFICIENT FOR VISA SUPPORT.

3. EMBOFFS MADE CLEAR THAT FOR CERTAIN EVENTS THIRD-
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COUNTRY JOURNALISTS WOULD BE WELCOMED. WE ALSO STRESSED NECESSITY TO PROVIDE FULL ACCESS TO ALL AREAS FOR EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO PERMIT AT LEAST ONE EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY PRESS TO ALL EVENTS. THIS NOT FORTHCOMING LAST YEAR.

4. IN ACCEPTING LISTS (TOTAL OF 77 NAMES INCLUDING

EMBOFFS), KRYLOV SAID THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO FORM POOLS ON SOME OCCASIONS. FOR THESE EVENTS, THERE WOULD BE EQUAL NUMBERS OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS--FOR EXAMPLE FIVE (5) OF EACH, SAID KRYLOV.

5. EMBOFFS URGED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOT BE COUNTED AGAINST US QUOTA, BUT MFA SAID DIVISION OF POOLS WOULD BE OUR DECISION 7 (NB: WE RECALL PROBLEMS DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LAST VISIT AND STRONGLY URGE THAT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS BE CONSIDERED WHEN FORMING POOLS.)

6. KRYLOV SAID THAT AT THIS TIME SOVIETS HAVE NO PLANS FOR EITHER UNILATERAL OR BILATERAL PRESS BRIEFINGS. IF SUCH EVENTS MATERIALIZE, TRANSPORTATION AND FACILITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED.

7. EMBOFFS INQUIRED ABOUT FACILITIES FOR POSSIBLE PRESS BRIEFINGS BY THE SECRETARY OR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. KRYLOV INQUIRED IF THIS WAS DEFINITELY ON THE SCHEDULE AND REFERRED US TO INTOURIST FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING. LATER SAME DAY ENTOURIST CHIEF OF PROTOCOL INSISTED THAT BRIEFING ROOM MUST BE RENTED BY MARCH 23 OR NOTHING COULD BE GUARANTEED. IF U.S. PRESS BRIEFINGS ARE CERTAIN, ADVISE IMMEDIATELY TIMES AND FACILITIES NEEDED, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WILL THIRD-COUNTRY JOURNALISTS BE ADMITTED? (EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THEY BE INVITED.) WILL TV COVERAGE BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMITTED?

8. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS. KRYLOV SAID MFA WOULD PROVIDE TELEXES AND OPERATORS (FIVE WERE REQUESTED), LATIN-SCRIPT TYPEWRITERS AND TELEPHONES AT HOTEL INTOURIST. MFA/PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ON DUTY AT THE HOTEL TO ASSIST.

9. MFA OFFICIALS ASKED ABOUT SEVERAL SPECIFICS RE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE:

- (A) WOULD SECRETARY HAVE ARRIVAL REMARKS AT AIRPORT?
- (B) WOULD PRESS BE WITH SECRETARY ON SUNDAY EVENING OR ON OTHER SOCIAL OCCASION?
- (C) WHAT NIGHT PREFERRED FOR MFA RECEPTION HONORING PRESS?

ABOVE QUESTIONS ALL ASKED WITH INTENTION OF

ASCERTAINING PRESS ACTIVITIES DURING VISIT.

10. KRYLOV SUGGESTED WE AGAIN DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS
LATER IN WEEK AFTER INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH INTOURIST.

11. ACTION: ADVISE SOONEST RE PARAS 7 AND 9.
TOON

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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